

Small-town experiences lend inspiration for author's book

By **STEPHANIE DeCAMP**

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A serial killer has moved to Jennings, and the town vampire doesn't know what he thinks about the newcomer.

That's the premise of Brenda Coffman's new book, "Forsaken," which is available now on Amazon.com.

"All of the characters are fictional," said Coffman, "and it's based in a small town in Kansas, so I guess living in a small town in Kansas definitely has had an effect on that."

Coffman published a previous book, "Diana's Dream," that she said received 4 1/2 stars on amazon.com. It also made it to the No. 3 position on Amazon's top free best sellers list in horror. And she has a third one in the works.

"I was going to do a follow up on the first book," she said, "but it's not the second part of the book

— just similar. It's about a girl in high school who is dating a boy, and then they break up. Then she's kidnapped and taken to a cabin.

"I want to show some of the things that teenagers go through from day to day, all the stresses you go through that you tend to forget about when you look back."

Coffman said she grew up in Pennsylvania and earned a bachelor's degree in business at Point Park University. After college, she moved around a bit, and lived in cities, including Columbus, Ohio. Wanting to get out of the city, she found Jennings on the Internet and has lived there since March 2011.

She and her husband Dan have two boys, Brendan, 15, and Lucas, 12. Coffman home schools her boys and writes full-time from home now.

So how did she get started?

"I actually won a contest in the local newspaper," she said, "in

seventh grade. It was a story about Christmas. And I've been writing ever since.

"I am one of those people who can't sit still, so I have all kinds of hobbies. I collect coins, and I read like crazy. I do a lot of things online, too."

One of those things is write, and you can find over 100 articles by her on the website helium.com, from how to buy a horse to why you shouldn't buy perfume on impulse.

It may not be exactly where she thought she'd end up, but Coffman is sure of one thing: she's a writer, through and through.

"I always thought I'd be writing more fantasy stuff," she said, "but I guess Stephen King had more of an influence on me than I realized. He talks about the English teachers who always say they're working on their book, and I thought, 'I just have to get on top of it.'"



Sacred Heart students showed off their certificates for the 2012 Summer Fair Book .

Kids done with summer book project

Nineteen students at Colby's Sacred Heart School earned certificates for completing a book of activities over the summer.

Principal Laura Krejci said the kids completed 20 reading and 20 math exercises out of the 2012 Summer Fun Book.

"The purpose of the Summer Fun Book was to help students

continue to learn over the summer and better prepare them for the 2012-2013 school year," she said, "giving them a boost in reading and math activities."

"Students were encouraged, but not required, to complete this book and bring it back by the first week of school. Congratulations to these students."

Those completing the book were Jaren Rush, Oaklynn Carman, Meghann Elling, Lacy Weigel, Jenna Reinert, Miah Jackson, Cindy Chavez, Adam Schacher, Emma Curry, Jalyn Sabatka, Aiden Cook, Tyler Voss, Lakin Denny, Samantha Diederich, Jayla Rush, Taden Fikan, Anna Brown, Kamryn Elling and Mallory Jackson.

On the Beat

COLBY POLICE

Sept. 6

7:53 a.m. — Caller reported barking dog. Owner not found, will attempt contact later in day.

8:42 a.m. — Driving while suspended report filed on traffic stop.

10:26 a.m. — Caller reported numerous vehicles had run stop signs at Pine and Franklin over last week. Extra patrol of area.

1:15 p.m. — Spoke to subjects about transients in parking lot at 1615 S. Range.

2:25 p.m. — Caller reported she was verbally threatened. No report at this time.

3:18 p.m. — Burglary: caller reported apartment broken into. Report filed.

4:07 p.m. — Provided information about restraining orders.

Friday

9:20 a.m. — Clerk advised playground fence was struck by vehicle overnight.

9:20 a.m. — Caller reported subject had a cell phone stolen earlier in week. Report filed.

9:40 a.m. — Caller reported two dogs at large walking south in the 300 block of N. Range. Turned over to owner.

10:13 a.m. — Officer was advised of theft. No report, was a

prank and item returned.

12:39 p.m. — Subjects came to station with recovered wallet. turned over to owner at station.

1:18 p.m. — Subject came to station about a ring she turned in. Provided information.

1:58 p.m. — Caller received a check that is fraudulent. Report filed.

2:10 p.m. — Caller reported woman backed into his car at 2000 S. Range.

4:24 p.m. — Caller reported possible drunk driver. Unable to locate.

6:33 p.m. — Caller reported young kid riding bike on S. Country Club. Unable to locate.

8:45 p.m. — Driving while suspended report filed on traffic stop.

THOMAS COUNTY SHERIFF

Sept. 6

12:13 p.m. — Vehicle towing trailer stopped in the 1900 block S. Range. Got it moving.

1:53 p.m. — Released Christopher Justin Wenzel.

2:41 p.m. — Released Carl Eugene Vigil Jr.

2:54 p.m. — Mark Richard Harrison arrested on warrant.

2:54 p.m. — Daniel R. Brown arrested on warrant.

3:22 p.m. — Released Brown.

3:56 p.m. — Released Harrison.

10:38 p.m. — Caller reported an erratic driver eastbound on I-70 from mile 43. Report filed for driving under the influence.

11:56 p.m. — Booked Robert Willoughby.

Friday

12:04 a.m. — Released Willoughby.

7:41 a.m. — Released Robert Lee Nathaniel Adams.

8:49 a.m. — Caller reported cows not being fed nor watered. All appeared OK.

2:14 p.m. — Booked Brandon Allen Garner.

2:53 p.m. — Booked Joseph Douglas.

4:19 p.m. — Booked Gerald Jones.

4:40 p.m. — Released Jones.

7:49 p.m. — Booked Jarrod Ferguson.

8:12 p.m. — Narcotic violation report filed on traffic stop on K-25.

9:11 p.m. — Booked James Hickert.

9:40 p.m. — Ryan Seiwert arrested on warrant.

11:10 p.m. — Booked Seiwert.

11:59 p.m. — Released Seiwert.

Thomas County Jail

Booked into the Thomas County jail:

• Anthony James Walberg, 27, Oberlin, May 16, failure to appear/failure to register, violation for offender registration, Red Willow County, Neb., Thomas County Sheriff's Office, released Monday to Kansas Department of Corrections.

• Timothy Allen Johnson, 19, Boise Idaho, July 22, domestic battery, criminal damage to property, Colby Police Department, released Sept. 5 to other agency.

• Nathaniel Robert Adams, 19, Hays, Aug. 2, probation violation, Thomas County Sheriff/Court Services of Thomas County, released Friday for time served.

• Carl Eugene Vigil Jr., 32, Salina, Aug. 23, probation revocation, Logan County Sheriff's Office, released Sept. 6 for time served.

• Christopher Justin Wenzel, 31, Wichita, Sept. 1, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession/distribution of hallucinogenic drugs, possession of opiates, opium, narcotic drugs or designated

stimulant, possession of drug paraphernalia (two counts), Kansas Highway Patrol, released Sept. 6 on \$100,000 appearance bond.

• Daniel Roy Brown, 27, Richardson, Texas, Sept. 5, possession/distribution of hallucinogenic drugs, using communication facility to arrange sale or purchases, Highway Patrol, released Sept. 6 on \$10,000 appearance bond.

• Elaine Kay Fentress, 65, Oakley, Sept. 5, failure to appear, Logan County Sheriff/Thomas County Sheriff, released same day on recognizance.

• Christopher Allen Hansen, 22, Colby, Sept. 5, holding for other agency, Thomas County Sheriff/Department of Corrections, released Monday to Department of Corrections.

• Mark Richard Harrison, 32, Dallas, Sept. 5, possession/distribution of hallucinogenic drugs, using communication facility to arrange sale or purchases, Highway Patrol, released Sept. 6 on \$10,000 appearance bond.

• Robert Joseph Willoughby,

18, Goodland, Sept. 6, driving under the influence, Thomas County Sheriff, released Friday with charges pending.

• Gerald Tracy Jones, 19, Colby, Friday, theft — less than \$1,000, Colby Police, released same day on notice to appear.

• Ryan Eugene Seiwert, 32, Oakley, Friday, battery, criminal threat, Thomas County Sheriff, released same day on \$25,000 appearance bond.

• Troy Fulton Couse, 26, Colby, Sunday, driving under the influence, refusal to take breath test, Colby Police, released same day on recognizance.

• Mark Anthony Farmer, 28, Dodge City, Sunday, driving with license suspended or revoked, Thomas County Sheriff, released same day on recognizance.

• Ferman L. Gibson, 56, Colby, Sunday, driving with license suspended or revoked, Colby Police, released same day on notice to appear.

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